Bio-Technology Policy

702. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a recent conference on "The Business of Bio-technology", emphasis was laid on the fact that the country need a Bio-technology Policy for trapping the full potential of the science and using it for economic development;

(b) if so, whether the policy should integrate various areas like production and marketing bio-technology related products; and

(c) if so, what action Government are taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) Yes, Sir. At the Conference "Knowledge Millennium-III" organised by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) on March 22, 2003, the need for an integrated National Biotech Policy was highlighted to tap the full potential of bio-technology.

(b) and (c) The Government of India has announced a Science & Technology Policy-2003 on 3rd January, 2003 at the Indian Science Congress at Bangalore which covers all areas of Science & Technology including Bio-technology. The main objectives of the Policy are to meet present national needs in the new era of globalisation. The strategy and implementation plan of the Science & Technology Policy gives the key elements of the implementation strategy. The Policy has given priority areas, which includes bio-technology to be given special importance. A vision document giving a ten-years perspective on research, application, and commercialisation of bio-technology has been the guiding force for many programmes taken up by the Govt. of India thrcugh the Department of Bio-technology, successfully.

Transferring technologies to industries

703. SHRI VIJAY J. DADRA:

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state: